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RUNGE, YEVGENY Y.

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By DAN MORGAN

BONN (WPS)—SOMEWHERE IN the Washington area, YEVGENY YEVGENYEVICH RUNGE, 39, has come to the end of his journey.

It was a journey that lifted him out of the obscurity of his Ukrainian homeland, took him through four identities and brought him finally into contact with the darkest secrets of at least three governments.

Since 1949 RUNGE—alias WILLY GAST, alias HEINZ MORMANN, alias MAJOR MAXIMOV—has been a professional Russian spy, but not of the ordinary sort.

In the view of Western intelligence authorities, his surrender to the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in West Berlin some time in the last 45 days marks the most important catch of a Communist operative since World War II.

According to these sources, the story that he is now telling has revealed details about the Soviet spy-training center in Karlshorst in East Berlin; it has proved conclusively that the Soviet Union operates its own incredibly intricate spy network in West Germany, separate from East Germany. It has indicated that the Allied contingency plan for West Berlin has been handed over to the Russians and it has pinpointed other agents in West Germany, including present and former employees of Bonn's Foreign Ministry.

But in the view of some intelligence experts RUNGE's main value may lie in the detailed information he is providing about the little known techniques, work and training of a rare type of espionage specialist—the "illegal" agent who melts into his environment and goes to work.

Unlike such big catches as YURI LOGINOV in South Africa, RUNGE never carried a diplomatic passport, never came in contact with the Soviet Union's corps of "diplomatic spies" and never went near an embassy, as far as Western investigators can tell.

For him, diplomatic cover was unnecessary.

His cover, which he used from the time he entered West Germany in 1955, was his ability to fade grayly into German society.

HOW MANY MORE RUSSIAN agents like him are now operating in West Germany are unknown, but the number probably is not very large.

For RUNGE, becoming accepted into German life was not particularly difficult. He was born in Novo Soleyoye, a "Volga German" from a part of the Ukraine where the German language and German mannerisms have persisted for centuries. In the Babel-like mixture of German dialects in post-war West Germany, language was not a problem in his assignment.

After the Nisei-like displacement of Volga Germans by Russians during World War II, RUNGE wandered into East Germany and became an interpreter in the Russian occupation. The chronology of events after that has been made available by Western intelligence "in the public interest."

In 1949, according to his statement to investigators he was recruited by the KGB (Interior Ministry's State intelligence apparatus.)

In 1952, after "basic training" he began preparations for his West German assignment. These lasted three years, a fact that has surprised even Western intelligence sources with high regard for the thoroughness of Soviet methods.

He was given his first new identity—that of WILLY GAST. A West German passport and documentation were obtained with the help of

agents in the West Berlin police department.

The KGB, supplied him with a wife, an East German called VALENTINA and, in 1955, they entered West Germany. In the years that followed, RUNGE set himself up in business as a juke box and pinball machine salesman, living and operating mainly in the Frankfurt and Cologne areas. He sold the business at a profit before turning himself in to American authorities.

Shortly after his arrival, he made his first contact with a man identified by Western sources as "MARGRAF." This man contacted his sister, KLARA PIESCHEL, and she in turn persuaded her husband, LEONARD, a janitor at the French embassy

In raids following RUNGE's defection last month, PIESCHEL was arrested on suspicion of stealing a key to the embassy safe and stealing NATO documents.

IN 1959, RUNGE HIMSELF WAS contacted by an East German agent named HEINZ SUETTERLIN, who was posing as a photographer. According to intelligence sources, he had been sent to West Germany with the names of three secretaries in the West German Foreign Office and orders to marry one. He selected a brunette named LEONORE, who then was working at an insignificant job in Lille, France.

Shortly, she was transferred to the Foreign Office in Bonn. It was this fact that first convinced investigators that her career had either been manipulated, or accurately foreseen by agents in the Foreign Office itself.

These agents, it is said, have now been identified and have admitted spying while on Foreign Office duty in the late 1950s. Several unannounced arrests stemming from this information are said to have taken place.

The new MRS. SUETTERLIN was assigned to work in the office of a Foreign Service administrator identified as KNUT NEISSE. In the early 1960s she began taking documents from the office to be photographed at lunchtime by her husband at home.

The film was then passed on to salesman RUNGE, who mailed it to contacts in Switzerland and Austria. These contacts handed the film over to the Russian embassies in those countries.

In late 1960 or early 1961, a curious event took place, according to statements of RUNGE. He was told to "forget about" the PIESCHEL ring which he had carefully established, and concentrate entirely on the SUETTERLIN activities.

A number of explanations for this have been considered by analysts. Either janitor PIESCHEL was turned over to another "illegal" without RUNGE's knowing it (which PIESCHEL denies) or the French information suddenly became available from some other source.